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## A DEGENERATE WORK OF ART

### "LANDSCAPE" BY GAUGUIN

EVERY now and then a man will appear in the world of art whose chief hunger is not to be original or fine or great, but just "different." To be singled out because of his singularity, he will establish a "*stream of tendency*" toward singularity in his art work.

If this stream of tendency is toward the refined,

ever he will, can bring forth only his own individuality."

Though Gauguin's work was demented, as his "Landscape" shown below proves, those dealers in Paris who chose him for a good "subject" to exploit did not hesitate to announce him as a great and original force and an innovator in art.



LANDSCAPE  
BY GAUGUIN  
*A Degenerate Work of Art*

his work will be progressively refined and is apt to become over-refined unless he is careful. If the tendency of the stream is toward the coarse, his work is apt to become vulgar unless he constantly checks himself. Because when once a man is launched in a search for singularity, his appetite like in other things will grow upon what it feeds until beauty, common-sense and logic are forgotten in a wild scramble for peculiarity, which finally becomes an obsession until the most idiotic singularity is mistaken by him for originality.

Gauguin was one of these possessed persons. His life was a continuous movement from mild peculiarity to practical dementia. And his art works followed suit, thus verifying the remark of Goethe: "The artist, make what contortions so-

That he was an innovator is as certain as that he was not great. He was simply stupidly different, intellectually degenerate and artistically vulgar. His "Landscape" here shown, while not so bad in pattern, shows a "deformation of the form" characteristic of all intellectually degenerate art and of much that is morally perverted.

The reader need only examine carefully this "Landscape" to see how far away from nature the forms were made in order to reach a "style" that should be sufficiently "different" from everything any one else ever dreamt of, to satisfy the ego-maniacal hunger of Gauguin for notoriety such as any man could win by painting a picture with the rainbow in black.

We will not dignify this work by making even a superficial analysis of its stupidity.